

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-29 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 7, 13, 20 and 27 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 14 and 21 are amended to incorporate features recited in claim 8 for clarity. Claims 28 and 29 are added to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 2 and paragraph [0016]. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14, 16-19 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0012121 to Yamamoto ("Yamamoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,485 to Hayashi ("Hayashi"), U.S. Patent No. 7,061,365 to Izumi ("Izumi") and U.S. Patent No. 6,072,595 to Yoshiura et al. ("Yoshiura"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest a plurality of slave units that receive the data from a remote center, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 8, 14 and 21. In particular, Yamamoto discloses a facsimile apparatus having a slave unit 6 and a handset 15. See Fig. 1. A portable terminal 7 sends digital data to the facsimile apparatus to be displayed at display 2 and display 6A.

The Office Action asserts that the portable terminal 7 corresponds to the remote center, and the handset 15 corresponds to one of the plurality of slave units. However, the handset 15 does not receive data from the portable terminal 7. Thus, the handset 15 does not correspond to the slave unit that receives the data from the remote center. Therefore, the Office Action's assertion that the handset 15 corresponds to one of the plurality of slave units is in error.

In fact, Yamamoto only discloses one slave unit 6 that receives data from the portable terminal 7. What the handset 15 receives is not what the slave unit 6 does. Thus, Yamamoto

does not disclose or suggest a plurality of slave units that receive the data from the remote center. Also, Hayashi, Izumi and Yoshiura do not supply the subject matter lacking in Yamamoto.

Also, the Office Action acknowledges that Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest "only the one of the plurality of slave units of the communication apparatus that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the entire contents of the data transmitted from the remote center," as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 8, 14 and 21. However, the Office Action asserts that Hayashi supplies the subject matter lacking in Yamamoto.

Claims 1, 14 and 21 are amended to incorporate features recited in claim 8 for clarity, as outlined above. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite "only the one of the plurality of slave units of the communication apparatus that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the entire contents of the data transmitted from the remote center, while the control circuit prohibits the master unit from storing the entire contents of the data transmitted from the remote center and further prohibits other ones of the plurality of slave units from receiving and storing therein the data transmitted from the remote center." Claims 14 and 21 are similarly amended. Hayashi does not disclose or suggest these additional features recited in claims 1, 14 and 21, as amended; and recited in claim 8, as previously presented.

Hayashi discloses switching between a facsimile reception unit and a telephone reception unit. See col. 1, line 52 - col. 2, line 19. However, the facsimile reception unit and the telephone reception unit do not correspond to any of the master unit and/or slave units recited in the claims for at least two reasons. First, Hayashi's facsimile reception unit and telephone reception unit only passively receive signals. They do not make a request to a remote center for transmitting data. Secondly, none of the facsimile reception unit and the telephone reception unit receives data via the other of the facsimile reception unit and the

telephone reception unit. Thus, Hayashi does not disclose or suggest "a plurality of slave units that receive the data from the remote center, via the master unit; wherein when one of the plurality of slave units makes a request to the remote center for transmitting the data, only the one of the plurality of slave units of the communication apparatus that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the entire contents of the data transmitted from the remote center, while the control circuit prohibits the master unit from storing the entire contents of the data transmitted from the remote center and further prohibits other ones of the plurality of slave units from receiving and storing therein the data transmitted from the remote center," as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 8, 14 and 21. Hence, Hayashi does not supply the subject matter lacking in Yamamoto.

Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Hayashi with Yamamoto. Yamamoto discloses displaying received data on both display 2 and display 6A. See paragraph [0072]. Displaying the received data on both displays does not cause a conflict between display 2 and display 6A. Thus, there is no need or motivation for a switch to decide whether to display the received data on display 2 or on display 6A. Thus, Yamamoto discloses receiving the data at both the main body 20 of the facsimile apparatus and the slave unit 6 for display at the display 2 and the display 6A, respectively. There is no need or motivation for a switch to decide whether the main body 20 or the slave unit 6 should receive the data from the portable terminal 7.

On the other hand, Hayashi discloses a device in which it is necessary to decide whether a signal is a facsimile signal or a telephone signal, so as to switch between a facsimile reception or a telephone reception, because these two receptions are exclusive to each other. See col. 1, line 52 - col. 2, line 19; and col. 2, lines 59-67.

The Office Action asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine Hayashi's switching feature in Yamamoto. However, as discussed

above, Yamamoto teaches displaying received data on both displays, thus teaches away from switching between two displays. Also, there is no need for Yamamoto to switch between the two displays, because the two displays do not conflict with each other. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Hayashi's switching feature into Yamamoto.

The Office Action asserts that such switching would allow only one unit to receive and store the transmitted data in different timeslot. However, "timeslot" is not a concern in Yamamoto. Yamamoto would not have been benefited from a "timeslot." To the contrary, such an unwanted "timeslot" feature would only add extra burden and cost in Yamamoto's system, without achieving any advantage. Thus, this alleged motivation is baseless.

For at least the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14, 16-19 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 28 and 29 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 19, 2007

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